

MAY EDITION

Sunday 4th MAY—THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

This Sunday in our churches...

SUNG COMMUNION

9.15am

St Peter's East Bridgford

Readings:

Acts 9:1-20, John 21:1-19



MORNING PRAYER

11.00am

St Wilfrid's, Screveton

Readings:

Psalms 80:1-8, Exodus 15:1-2, 9-18
John 10:1-19

A Prayer for the Interregnum

Almighty God, in this time of vacancy and change for The Fosse Group, hold us in your loving care, lead us in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, and send your Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us. Help us to use the gifts and talents you have given to each of us for your glory, to seek your wisdom in prayer before we make decisions, and to encourage, care, and pray for each other.

We seek your guidance in the appointment of our new priest. We pray for a Rector who will be a faithful shepherd, a compassionate leader and a source of inspiration for us all. Someone who will lead us in prayer, guide us in the Word, and help us to grow in faith and service.

Managing the Interregnum and Appointing a new Rector

Following the retirement of our Rector the Fosse Group of Churches are in Interregnum. There is a set procedure we must follow as we embark upon the process of finding a new incumbent.

The Interregnum is intended to provide a period for full and honest reflection and an opportunity whilst celebrating the strengths of our churches to also recognise where it may be necessary to change in order for us to grow.

During this time, in consultation with the Archdeacon and Area Dean, the churches are led by the churchwardens supported by our honorary assistant priest, our Fosse Group administrator, our visiting priests and our volunteers. The churchwardens are responsible for ensuring that worship, pastoral care and mission continue in the parishes and that all in positions of responsibility are properly supported.

The process for appointing a new Rector is set out

under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. As a first step the PCC's will meet with the Archdeacon to coordinate a plan for drafting what is commonly known as a parish profile.

Once the completed profile and arrangements for interviews are approved by the Bishop and PCC's the advertisement for our new Rector will be published.

The various steps in the recruitment process do inevitably mean that it normally takes many months to complete. Rest assured we will do everything we can to achieve a good outcome within a reasonable timescale.

Throughout this time, we must wait and pray for our new Rector to come and join us.

However, with the continued support, energy and commitment of our parishioners and local community we are confident that the churches of the Fosse Group will continue to thrive.

*Churchwardens - The Fosse Group
May 2025*

May services

CHANGES TO MAY SERVICES

Please note that as the Fosse Group of churches will be in interregnum from May, your usual church services times may change. Please check on our website www.fossegroup.org.uk, or the May edition of this newsletter, before you set out for a service.

Sunday 4th May – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.15am	Communion	St Peter's, East Bridgford
10.00am	Morning Prayer (lay-led)	St Wilfrid's, Screveton

Wednesday, 7th May

10.00am	Communion (BCP)	St Peter's, East Bridgford
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Thursday 8th May

6.30pm	V.E. Day Commemoration (lay-led)	St Mary's, Car Colston
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Sunday, 11th May – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.00am	Pancakes and Praise (lay-led)	St Peter's, East Bridgford
11.00am	Communion	St Wilfrid's, Screveton
4.00pm	Rogation service	St Helen's, Kneeton

Wednesday, 14th May

10.00am	Communion (BCP)	St Peter's, East Bridgford
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Sunday, 18th May – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

11.00am	Communion	St Mary's, Car Colston
6.00pm	Evensong	St Peter's, East Bridgford

Thursday 22nd May

10.00am	Communion (BCP)	St Peter's, East Bridgford
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Sunday, 25th May – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.15am	Communion	St Peter's, East Bridgford
11.00am	Communion (BCP)	St Augustine's, Flintham
4.00pm	Rogation service	St Mary's, Car Colston and St Wilfrid's, Screveton

Wednesday, 28th May

10.00am	Communion (BCP)	St Peter's, East Bridgford
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Thursday, 29th May – ASCENSION DAY

7.00pm	Ascension Day service	St Helen's, Kneeton
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BCP= Book of Common Prayer; CW = Common Worship

www.fossegroup.org.uk

THOUGHTS FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

Change is an inevitable part of life.

If we were to pause for a moment and recall all the times in our lives we have faced a major change, either through choice, or as a result of things completely out of our control I'm sure each one of us would have much to reflect on.

Some of the changes we encounter are full of joy, the birth of a child, a new relationship, or a new job for instance. Other changes are full of sadness, like the loss of someone we love or adapting to changes in health or circumstance. Each of these experiences shapes who we are, how we respond to each other and to the world, and how we see and think about God.

We read in Ecclesiastes chapter 3 verses 1-8 the wonderful verses which speak of times and seasons full of change – *'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.'* They speak of birth and death, mourning and dancing, planting and reaping, seeking and losing. They set the context for the great seasons of creation and life, and all placed completely and lovingly in the hands of the creator God.

By the time you receive this newsletter at the beginning of May, Mark and I will be embarking on another big change in our lives as we leave our home at the Vicarage in Flintham, and our lives as part of the Fosse Group, and as I leave my post as your Rector and we move into retirement in Rutland.

We leave the comfort and security of a generous and gracious group of church families and villages in which we have lived, worshipped, laughed and loved for a wonderful five and a half years, and where I have had the privilege to serve alongside Revd Chris, the late Michael Clarke and many others; Our time with you has been a joy and a challenge in equal measure. I have received much affirmation here of my call into God's service in this little corner of rural Nottinghamshire and I feel richly blessed to have been here. I have had the privilege to walk beside many of you through the joys and sadnesses of life as your priest and to get to know many of you as friends. For that I am thankful.

Mark and I go with thanks for so many blessings, and with the sadness of leaving so many friends, but we go confidently with an abundance of good memories, knowing that as one season ends another begins. God is faithful through every change of life and in every season, and we believe we are held in the palm of God's loving hand, as we believe you are too.

May God bless you in your faithfulness and may you all bear fruit in your season.

With blessings for the future

Revd Ruth

A Time of Thanks and Hope

Last Sunday we said goodbye to our Rector, the Reverend Ruth Colby, who has recently concluded her ministry here after five and a half faithful years of service. We are deeply grateful for her dedication, compassion, and tireless work in leading our parishes through times of both joy and challenge. From leading services and supporting families, to launching new community projects and simply being there whenever someone needed a listening ear. Her impact on our church family and the wider community will be felt for many years to come.

Although we will greatly miss her leadership and friendship, we now enter a time of transition. We want to assure you that the life and work of St. Peters and the Fosse Group will continue without interruption. Services, pastoral care, and all our regular activities will carry on, supported by our dedicated wardens, ministry team, and visiting clergy.

The process to appoint a new Rector is underway. We are working closely with the Diocese to find the right person to lead us into the next chapter of our shared life in Christ, and we're trusting that the right person will come along in God's perfect timing. This period gives us an opportunity not just to reflect on all that has been achieved, but also to look ahead with faith and hope. Most importantly we all need to work as a team across the Group as we enter this period of interregnum. Please pray for the right person to be appointed and let's support one another during this time of change. Let us continue to be a welcoming, vibrant, and faithful community — a living testament to the spirit that Reverend Ruth helped to foster among us.

The Reverend Chris

A reminder – Anyone who would like a visit or who cannot get to Church to receive Communion, please contact me on 07464547654 and I will visit.

Some photos from Revd Ruth's last service at St Peter's—see page 10 for more on this



Reverend Ruth Colby



It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Rev Ruth. She started her ministry across the Fosse Group in October 2019 with her installation by Bishop Paul at St. Peter's, where her time has been valued and appreciated by so many of us. It was not an easy start, as within four months of her installation as Rector, COVID arrived. Ruth quickly established remote services, connecting us all via Zoom – though muting for the hymn-singing with just the sound of the piano and your own voice was an interesting experience for some.

Once we were back to normal, there was Rev Ruth at the door, greeting each and every one of us and making us feel welcome. From early on she was keen to build up different ways to worship, so that each month there was – and is – a choice of service, from the well-established, traditional Book of Common Prayer service, through the modern-day language of Common Worship, to the relaxed and informal Pancakes and Praise, and not forgetting the Celtic-style worship, either in church or via Zoom. Rev Ruth was instrumental in enhancing these services by the installation of an AV system, giving the opportunity for more visual stimuli, access to different music and much more.

Fellowship is very much at the forefront of Rev Ruth's ministry and this is what led to the removal of pews at the back of church and the creation of an adaptable space. It has been a great success, allowing for socialising before or after services and being an ideal space for group activities.

Apart from acts of worship Ruth has been keen to encourage access to our church in other ways. She has established excellent links with St Peter's Academy, taking assemblies on a regular basis and becoming a familiar figure with the pupils. She has instigated 'Experience' activity days, with teams of volunteers, in which all the classes in turn come into church and do activities relating to a given theme, 'Experience Advent' being the most recent. Ruth has helped to develop Messy Church for children in conjunction with the Methodist Church, and has established a Christian Youth Group.

Caring for the environment is another passion of hers and, again with teams of volunteers, she has organised family days exploring the world around us with activities both inside and out in the churchyard. This has linked with her determination for St Peter's to be an Eco Church, an award scheme for churches to demonstrate their care for creation and the environment. By meeting various targets St Peter's has received the Silver Award.

These achievements were not possible without Rev Ruth's encouragement of many individuals to play a part and take on a role, however small. This will be her legacy, that she has set up activities and leadership roles which members of the church will wish to maintain through the interregnum and beyond.

We thank Rev Ruth for all her efforts, for her friendship and for her ministry and wish her and Mark a happy retirement.

Beryl Cottrill on behalf of East Bridgford, Kneeton and Flintham Parochial Church Council

*East Bingham Deanery
welcomes...*



Bishop Andy

sharing his

***Reflections
on faith
and ministry***

7.30pm May 20th

**St Mary's Church,
Car Colston**

Refreshments from 7pm

News from our parishes...



News from the Parish of Car Colston and Screveton

The Palm Sunday procession from St Wilfrid's to **St Mary's** commemorated the Lord's entry into Jerusalem. We welcomed the choir and congregation from across the Fosse Group for the service of the Palm Liturgy and Passion Narrative.

Easter Sunday was Rev Ruth's last service at **St Mary's** and a congregation of 42 adults and 7 children attended to say goodbye. The service celebrated the good news of Easter and it was marvellous to be joined by so many people from the local community. This was also our opportunity to thank Ruth for her hard work and dedication, for the warmth and generosity of her rural ministry and for her lasting engagement with our young families all of which had so successfully underpinned everything achieved at **St Mary's** and across the wider Group. The presentation of an olive wood board and a photograph album was accompanied by a glass of champagne and a slice of Easter cake as we wished Ruth and Mark a long and very happy retirement. It was noted that although Ruth may be retiring she will of course always remain The First Rector of the Fosse Group. We hope Ruth's friendship and association with **St Mary's** will long continue.



Many thanks to Diane who singlehandedly arranged the flowers and the decorations for this special service and to Judy for baking such a delicious and beautifully decorated Easter cake which very quickly disappeared!

St Mary's dates for your diary in May

8th May 6.30pm National Ring for Peace and VE Day Commemoration led by Henry Blagg

14th May 6.00pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held at St Wilfrid's Screveton

18th May 11am Communion Service

20th May 7pm an evening with Bishop Andy 'Reflections on Faith and Ministry'

25th May 4pm Rogation Day Walk from St Mary's to St Wilfrid's

Service schedules during the Interregnum are subject to change so please check details on social media and noticeboards. If in doubt contact Fosse Group Admin or the churchwardens.

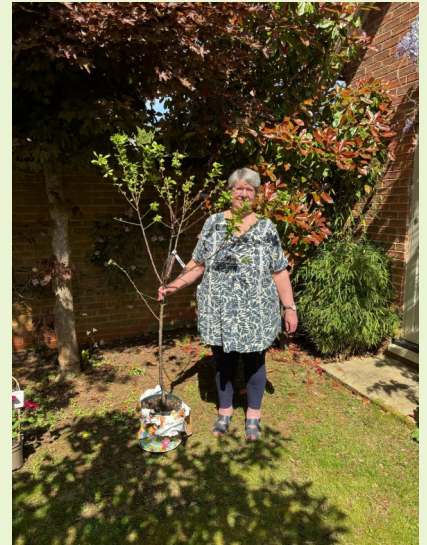


News from our parishes...



St Wilfrids service on the 1st Sunday in April was the first of many thanksgiving presentations and celebrations for Rev Ruth and Mark's retirement and move to Rutland. St W marked the occasion with a gift of a plum tree which we hope will be a happy reminder of our congregation and who knows maybe a plum crumble or two! After our service we had refreshments and almost an hour of fellowship together.

Our annual Palm Sunday procession between this parish's 2 churches walked from St Wilfrid to St Mary's cc this year with approximately 12 members of all the Fosse Group churches led by Rev Ruth.



Moving forward into Interregnum, your churchwardens together with Sherry Rudman and Rev



Chris Dolby will be here for you. Please note that St Wilfrids have swapped their 2 services and the timings, 10am Lay led 1st Sunday, and 11am for Vicar led on 2nd Sunday. This is to accommodate one communion service in the Group each week. Please look out for further details.



The Archdeacons' Visitation Dates

Every year, the Archdeacons' Visitations take place. These are formal church services, during which Churchwardens across each Archdeaconry are admitted. This year there will be two dates to choose from, both held at Southwell Minster:

7:30pm 12th June 2025 at Southwell Minster

7:30pm 23rd July 2025 at Southwell Minster

A very warm welcome is extended to anyone who wishes to attend these services. These Visitations are opportunities to show support for your Churchwardens, as they are sworn into office. All Churchwardens, those returning and those newly appointed, will be prayed for as we recognise their invaluable and faithful work for parishes and communities across the Diocese. We would love you to join your clergy and Churchwardens for these important services.

News from St Peter's church

St Peter's Churchyard



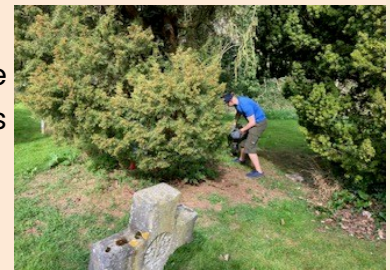
The April working party had lots of helpers of all ages which was wonderful and a great deal was achieved.

Weeding the paths and borders and clearing brambles and ivy from the trees.



And of course there is the cutting up and putting in the green bins for composting by Rushcliffe Borough Council. However, there are always things that still need doing!

Thank you to everyone who came and hope you will come and help us again in May.



St. Peter's Working Party in May

The next working party is on **Saturday, May 3rd**, a week earlier than usual. Someone with be there from around 9.00 and we finish by 11.30. Come when you can and stay for as long as you can spare. There will be coffee, tea and biscuits at 10.00.

Looking forward to seeing you.

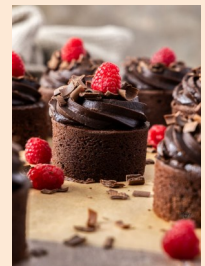
June's working party will be on **Saturday 14th**, back to the usual second Saturday

ST PETER'S CHURCH AT EAST BRIDGFORD VILLAGE SHOW 28th JUNE 2025

As last year, there will be a cake stall as part of the church stall, to raise much-needed funds—donations of sweet or savoury bakes needed!

Contributions to be given to Pat Fletcher at 18 Haycroft Way on Friday 27th June, or brought to the stall early in the morning of Show Day.

Volunteers also needed to help on the stall on the day.



ECO REMINDERS

Go Wild!

Could you leave a section of your garden to be 'wild' and not touch it?

<https://www.nhm.uk/discover/how-to-grow-a-better-lawn-for-wildlife.html>

Worth looking at, some interesting ideas.

Reverend Ruth Colby's last service in the Fosse Group

Sunday 27th April 2025 at 4.00pm

We gathered together for a service of 'Nine Readings of the Easter Story', at St. Peter's. This was to be the last service that Rev. Ruth would take in the Fosse Group, prior to her retirement. The nine readings were read by members from each of the five churches in our Benefice. This was also 'A Special Musical Service' which included six beautiful Anthems sung by the choir.

There were also four popular hymns to which the congregation added their voices.

At the end of the service Peter Golightly spoke warmly of Rev. Ruth's five and a half years with us and presented her with a farewell gift from her five churches and individual generous donations.



Rev. Ruth thanked Peter and then spoke fondly of her time here.

After which we were invited to stay and share a glass of wine and enjoy the lovely buffet kindly provided by a team of volunteers from our churches.

It was lovely to see so many people in church and enjoying their time there amongst friends old and new.

Then came the cutting of the cake or rather cakes provided by the parishes.

We then learnt that Rev. Ruth and Mark were also celebrating their Ruby Wedding today, so it seems very appropriate that they cut the cakes together.

Then more chatting, drinking and eatingand gradually people said their farewells to Rev Ruth.

We shall all miss Rev. Ruth very much and we wish her and Mark a very happy and well earned retirement.



DIARY

correct at time of going to press
For all church services see page 2

Monday 5th May

St Peter's Bellringers, 7.30–9pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Thursday 8th May

St Mary's Bellringers, 10.30am–12.00pm, St Mary's, Car Colston

St Peter's Choir practice, 6.30pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Sunday 11th May

East Bridgford, Kneeton & Flintham Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 11.15am, St Peter's Church

Monday 12th May

St Peter's Bellringers, 7.30–9pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Wednesday 14th May

Car Colston & Screveton Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 6pm,
St Wilfrid's church, Screveton

Thursday 15th May

Messy Church, 3.15–4–45pm, East Bridgford Methodist Church
St Mary's Bellringers, 10.30am–12.00pm, St Mary's, Car Colston

Monday 19th May

Setting up Experience After Easter, 9am–4pm, St Peter's church,
East Bridgford

Tuesday 20th May

Mustard Seed Prayer Group, 2pm–3pm, St Mary's, Bingham
Bishop Andy Reflections on faith and ministry, 7.30pm, St Mary's
Car Colston

Wednesday 21st May

Experience After Easter, 9am–4pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Thursday 22nd May

Mother's Union, Car Colston, Flitnham & Screveton, 3pm–
4.30pm, venue t.b.c.
St Mary's Bellringers, 10.30am–12.00pm, St Mary's, Car Colston
St Peter's Choir practice, 6.30pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Saturday 24th May

District Ringing Practice, 10am–12pm, St Peter's. East Bridgford

Thursday 29th May

St Mary's Bellringers, 10.30am–12.00pm, St Mary's, Car Colston

CONTACTS

**For pastoral care visits or
home Communion visits,
please**

contact Rev.Chris Dolby

Tel: 07464547654 or email:
rector@fossegroup.org.uk

Administrator:

Sherry Rudman

email:

office@fossegroup.org.uk

(on annual leave between 15 May
and 26 May).

Safeguarding

**Any concerns about
safeguarding should be
directed to the Parish
Safeguarding Officers**

Peter Golightly

Tel: **07768 401406**

email:

pgolightly@btinternet.com

Mandy Beeby

Tel: **07850 085055** email:

mandy@rbeeby.co.uk

A reminder that St Mary's, Car Colston are hosting one of a series of evening talks held by the Deanery—on **Tuesday 20th May at 7.30pm**, Bishop Andy will be sharing his reflections on faith and ministry. Refreshments served at 7pm

All are welcome—it would be great to see lots of Fosse group faces at St Mary's on the evening.

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